

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Effective May 22, 2006

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Noble Resources S.A.

Plaintiff(s),

NOTICE OF COURT CONFERENCE

-v-

08 Civ. 6165 (JSR)

Meridian Bulk Carriers Limited

Defendant(s).
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To: The Attorney(s) for Plaintiff(s):

The Honorable Jed S. Rakoff, U.S.D.J. has ordered that counsel for all parties attend a conference, at the time and place fixed below, for the purpose of case management and scheduling pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16. You are directed to furnish all attorneys in this action with copies of this notice and enclosures, and to furnish Chambers with a copy of any transmittal letter(s). If you are unaware of the identity of counsel for any of the parties, you should send a copy of the notice and rules to that party personally, informing the party that any unrepresented party is required to appear at the conference in person. **Finally, upon receipt of this notice, please immediately furnish Chambers with a courtesy copy of your complaint and F.R.C.P. Rule 7.1 Statement, if applicable.**

DATE AND PLACE OF CONFERENCE: OCTOBER 7, 2008, AT THE UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE, 500 PEARL STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. IN COURTROOM 14-B AT 11:00 a.m.

No application for adjournment will be considered unless made within one week of the date of this notice. The fact that any party has not answered the complaint does not excuse attendance by that party or warrant any adjournment of the conference.

No later than one week prior to the conference, the parties shall furnish the Court with a written report of their agreements or disagreements regarding planning of discovery pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f). Enclosed is a form (Form D) for a Case Management Plan that the parties may utilize in making this report. In the absence of agreement, the Court, after hearing from counsel, will order a Case Management Plan and schedule at the conference. Absent extraordinary circumstances, the Plan shall provide that the case be ready for trial within five months of the date of the conference.

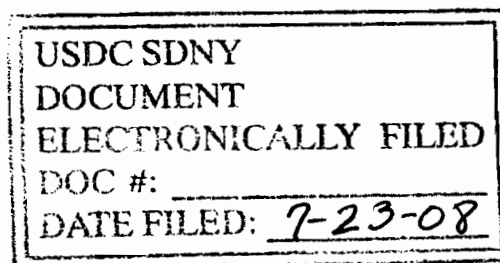
In addition to the matters covered in Form D, counsel should also be prepared to address at the conference the factual and legal bases for their claims or defenses, any issue as to subject matter jurisdiction, and any other issue relevant to case management.

SO ORDERED.


JED S. RAKOFF
U.S.D.J.

DATED: New York, New York

7-23-08



Revised Form D—For cases assigned to Judge Rakoff
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Effective March 29, 2004

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Noble Resources S.A.

Plaintiff(s),

CIVIL CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN
(JUDGE RAKOFF)

-v-

08 Civ. 6165 (JSR)

Meridian Bulk Carriers Limited

Defendant(s).
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**This Court requires that this case shall be ready for trial on
MARCH 9, 2009.**

After consultation with counsel for the parties, the following Case Management Plan is adopted. This plan is also a scheduling order pursuant to Rules 16 and 26(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

- A. The case (is) (is not) to be tried to a jury. [Circle as appropriate]
- B. Joinder of additional parties must be accomplished by _____.
- C. Amended pleadings may be filed without leave of Court until _____.
- D. Discovery (in addition to the disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)):
1. Documents. First request for production of documents, if any, must be served by _____. Further document requests may be served as required, but no document request may be served later than 30 days prior to the date of the close of discovery as set forth in item 6 below.
 2. Interrogatories. Interrogatories pursuant to Rule 33.3(a) of the Local Civil Rules of the Southern District of New York must be served by _____. No other interrogatories are permitted except upon prior express permission of Judge Rakoff. No Rule 33.3(a) interrogatories need be served with respect to disclosures automatically required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a).
 3. Experts. Every party-proponent of a claim (including any counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim) that intends to offer expert testimony in respect of such claim must make the disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) by _____. Every party-opponent of such claim that intends to offer expert testimony in opposition to such claim must make the disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) by _____. No expert testimony (whether designated as "rebuttal" or otherwise) will be permitted by other experts or beyond the scope of the opinions covered by the aforesaid disclosures except upon prior express permission of the Court, application for which must be made no later than 10 days after the date specified in the immediately preceding sentence. All experts may be deposed, but such depositions must occur within the time limit for all depositions set forth below.

4. Depositions. All depositions (including any expert depositions, see item 3 above) must be completed by _____. Unless counsel agree otherwise or the Court so orders, depositions shall not commence until all parties have completed the initial disclosures required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1) or until four weeks from the date of this Order, whichever is earlier. Depositions shall proceed concurrently, with no party having priority, and no deposition shall extend beyond one business day without prior leave of the Court.

5. Requests to Admit. Requests to Admit, if any, must be served by _____ [insert date that is no later than 30 days prior to date of close of discovery as set forth in item 6 below].

6. All discovery is to be completed by _____. Interim deadlines for items 1–5 above may be extended by the parties on consent without application to the Court, provided the parties are certain they can still meet the discovery completion date set forth in this paragraph, which shall not be adjourned except upon a showing to the Court of extraordinary circumstances.

E. Post-discovery summary judgment motions in the form prescribed by the Court's Individual Rules of Practice may be brought on without further consultation with the Court provided that a Notice of any such motion, in the form specified in the Court's Individual Rules of Practice, is filed no later than one week following the close-of-discovery date (item D-6 above) and provided that the moving papers are served by _____, answering papers by _____, and reply papers by _____ [the last of these days being no later than six weeks following the close of discovery]. Each party must file its respective papers with the Clerk of the Court on the same date that such papers are served. Additionally, on the same date that reply papers are served and filed, counsel for the parties must arrange to deliver a courtesy non-electronic hard copy of the complete set of papers to the Courthouse for delivery to Chambers.

F. A final pre-trial conference, as well as oral argument on any post-discovery summary judgment motions, shall be held on _____ [date to be inserted by the Court], at which time the Court shall set a firm trial date. The timing and other requirements for the Joint Pretrial Order and/or other pre-trial submissions shall be governed by the Court's Individual Rules of Practice.

G. All motions and applications shall be governed by Judge Rakoff's Individual Rules of Practice. Counsel shall promptly familiarize themselves with all of the Court's Individual Rules, as well as with the Local Rules for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

SO ORDERED.

JED S. RAKOFF
U.S.D.J.

DATED: New York, New York
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